

Message Text

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SUBJ: POST RELATIONSHIPS WITH AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE -
TWO CENTS FROM HONDURAS

REF: STATE 094266

1. REFTEL ARRIVED AT TIME AMBASSADOR HAD ALREADY DISCUSSED DURING REGULAR MEETING OVER COFFEE WITH SEVERAL AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN QUESTIONS OF ESTABLISHING AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN HONDURAS.

2. HISTORICALLY, NO AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAS EXISTED IN HONDURAS. CONTRIBUTING FACTORS WERE THAT SCATTERED AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY WAS TOO SMALL. FURTHER, MANY POTENTIAL MEMBERS PREFER A LOW PROFILE VIS-A-VIS THE GOH, AND DON'T WANT TO SHARE PROBLEMS, BY ASSOCIATION, THAT OTHER AMERICAN COMPANIES HAVE WITH THE GOH. COSTS, AN OFFICE AND STAFFING ALSO ARE ELEMENTS. THE SOCIAL BENEFITS OF AN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE APPEAR TO BE SLIGHT, AS ACCESS TO OTHER BUSINESSMEN AND AMBASSADOR IS ALREADY GOOD. FINALLY, MOST COMPANIES HAVE THEIR OWN SPECIAL AVENUES TO APPROACH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

3. POSITIVE ELEMENTS OF AN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE COULD BE INTERCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON LOCAL CONDITIONS THROUGH REGULAR MEETINGS, BUT THIS PARTIALLY ANSWERED BY MONTHLY COFFEE WITH THE AMBASSADOR, AND THAT FORMAT COULD BE EXPANDED IF INTEREST DEVELOPED.

4. A SUGGESTION TO FORM A LOCAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAS BEEN
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MADE BY CHARLES MACKAY OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF LATIN

AMERICA IN MIAMI TO A LOCAL BUSINESSMAN. IT IS UNDER ADVISE-
MENT, BUT FACES THE DIFFICULTIES MENTIONED ABOVE.

5. EMBASSY HONDURAS WOULD CERTAINLY BE RECEPTIVE TO SUGGESTIONS
FROM THE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS RELATIONS OF THE
U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. WHAT RELEVANT MATERIALS AND SERVICES
WOULD THEY OFFER TO A HONDURAN CHAPTER, SHOULD IT BE FORMED?
IS THERE AN INSTITUTIONAL INTERMEDIATE BETWEEN THE AMBASSDOR'S
MEETINGS AND A FULL FLEDGED CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, SOME ORGANIZA-
TIONAL EXPERIENCE OF A HALF-WAY ASSOCIATION WHICH COULD LEAD
TO THE EVENTUAL FORMATION OF A CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WHEN
CIRCUMSTANCES ARE MORE PROPITIOUS?
SANCHEZ

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